

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sinter powder ~~for selective laser sintering, which comprises comprising:~~
at least one polyamide in the form of a particle; and
at least one member selected from the group consisting of a poly(N-
methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), ~~one~~ a polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), and/or one a
PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof, in the form of a particle;

wherein the size of the particles of PMMI, PMMA and/or the PMMI-PMMA
copolymers is within 20% of the median grain size d_{50} of the polyamide particles.

2. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, ~~which further comprises:~~ comprising a polyamide which comprises at least 8 carbon atoms per carboxamide group.

3. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, ~~which further comprises:~~ comprising an unregulated polyamide.

4. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, ~~which further comprises:~~ comprising at least one nylon which is selected from the group consisting of nylon-6,12, nylon-11, nylon-12, a copolyamide; wherein said copolyamide is based on ~~the named~~ said nylons, and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 0.01 to 30 wt. % of said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof, ~~wherein the of PMMI, PMMA and/or PMMI-PMMA copolymer or mixtures thereof ranges from 0.01 to 30 wt. %, which is based on the~~ entirety of the polymers present in the powder.

6. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 0.5 to 15 wt. % wherein the of said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof ~~PMMI, PMMA, and/or PMMI-PMMA copolymer ranges from 0.5 to 15 wt. %, which is based on the~~ entirety of the polymers present in the powder.

7. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, ~~which further comprises~~ comprising

a mixture of

particles of ~~PMMI, of PMMA, or of PMMI-PMMA copolymer~~ said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof,

with particles of polyamide.

8. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in any of claim 1, ~~which further comprises~~ comprising polyamide particles into which ~~PMMI, PMMA, and/or PMMI-~~

PMMA copolymer said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof has been incorporated.

9. (Currently Amended) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ~~one or more~~ an auxiliary, and/or a filler, and/or a pigment and mixtures thereof.

10. (Original) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 9, wherein the auxiliary comprises a flow auxiliary.

11. (Original) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filler comprises glass particles.

12. (Original) The sinter powder as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filler comprises aluminum particles.

13. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the sinter powder as claimed in claim 1, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

mixing at least one polyamide with ~~at least one PMMI, one PMMA, and/or one PMMI-PMMA copolymer~~ said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 13, ~~which further~~
~~comprises~~ comprising

mixing a polyamide powder obtained by reprecipitation or milling, in suspension or in solution in an organic solvent, or in bulk, with ~~PMMI, PMMA, or PMMI-PMMA copolymer~~ said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 13, ~~which further~~
~~comprises~~ comprising

compounding ~~the PMMI, PMMA, and/or PMMI-PMMA copolymer~~ said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof into a melt of polyamide, to obtain a mixture; followed by and
milling ~~the resultant~~ said mixture to give a laser sinter powder.

16. (Original) A process for producing moldings, which comprises:
selectively laser sintering the sinter powder as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A molding produced by laser sintering, which comprises:
~~at least one PMMI, one PMMA, and/or one PMMI-PMMA copolymer~~
at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof, and
at least one polyamide.

18. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 17, ~~which further comprises~~ comprising a polyamide which has at least 8 carbon atoms per carboxamide group.

19. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 17, ~~which further comprises~~ comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of nylon-6,12, nylon-11, and/or nylon-12 and mixtures thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 18, ~~which further comprises~~ comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of nylon-6,12, nylon-11, and/or nylon-12 and mixtures thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 17, comprising from 0.01 to 30 wt. % of said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof, wherein the PMMI, PMMA and/or PMMI-PMMA copolymer ranges from 0.01 to 30 wt. %, which is based on the entirety of the polymers present in the powder.

22. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 17, ~~wherein the PMMI, PMMA and/or PMMI-PMMA copolymer ranges from 0.5 to 15 wt. %, which is comprising~~ from 0.5 to 15 wt. % of said at least one member selected from the group consisting of the poly(N-methylmethacrylimide) (PMMI), the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), the PMMI-PMMA copolymer and mixtures thereof, based on the entirety of the polymers present in the powder.

23. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 17, which further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a filler, a pigment and mixtures thereof fillers and/or pigments.

24. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 23, ~~wherein at least one of the fillers is~~ comprising glass particles.

25. (Currently Amended) The molding as claimed in claim 23, ~~wherein at least one of the fillers is aluminium~~ comprising aluminum particles.

26. (New) A molding produced by laser sintering the sinter powder as claimed in claim 1.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The claims have been amended to better conform to accepted U.S. claim format.

The amendment of Claim 1 is supported at page 9, last paragraph of the specification.

New Claim 26 has been added as supported by Claims 1 and 17.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-26 will now be active in this application.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants wish to thank Examiner McClendon for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on May 9, 2005. During this discussion it was noted that the rejections of the claims as being indefinite, may be overcome by the claims as presently amended.

The term "unregulated" in Claim 3 is a term of art as discussed at page 13, line 14 of the specification.

The rejections over the currently applied prior art references may be overcome by claiming that the size of the particles of PMMI, PMMA and/or the PMMI-PMMA copolymers is within 20% of the median grain size d_{50} of the polyamide particles as supported at page 9, last paragraph of the specification. The claims have been so amended.